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RED CROSS WORK



IN CHARGE OF

JANE A. DELANO, R.N.

Chairman of National Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service

MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON RED CROSS NURSING SERVICE

At a meeting of the Committee on Red Cross Nursing Service at the office of the Surgeon-General, U. S. Army, December 7, 1910, the following members were present: Miss Delano, chairman; Mrs. Draper, Miss Boardman, Miss Maxwell, Mrs. Tice, General Torney, Major Lynch, and Miss Nevins.

The chairman read a number of reports from different states, when Mrs. Draper suggested that these be curtailed unless there were points of special importance to be referred to the committee.

The District of Columbia having requested, through its delegate, that registration be made a requirement for enrollment in the Red Cross Nursing Service, the subject was thoroughly discussed and the committee, while approving of the principle, decided that it was too soon at present to make that condition. Miss Boardman moved, seconded by Miss Maxwell, that the subject be referred to the next meeting of the committee to be held in Boston at the time of the annual meeting of the Associated Alumnae. This motion was carried.

The chairman reported that the delegate from New York had suggested the following change in the rules under the "Duties of State Committees": Omit the following: "but in sections where there is an affiliated organization representing a majority of the trained nurses in that locality, such appointment shall be made from names submitted by the executive committee of that organization," and insert: "and these organizations shall be invited to submit nominations for these local committees and it is desirable that these candidates shall be themselves enrolled nurses." Mrs. Draper moved, seconded by Mrs. Tice, that this change be adopted, and the committee was unanimously favorable. It was then agreed that nurses on committees organized for Red Cross work might be enrolled for administrative work only in case of need.

With reference to the enrollment of male nurses, General Torney

moved, seconded by Mrs. Draper, that the committee was not prepared to consider them at present. The motion was carried.

Concerning the reports of local committees, Mrs. Draper moved that such reports be sent to the state committees and then to the national committee. After some discussion, Miss Boardman amended the motion as follows: The names of the local committees and the number of nurses enrolled shall be sent in duplicate to the state committee and to Washington. This amendment was adopted.

Miss Boardman then proposed that a circular stating the purposes of the Red Cross and containing the rules for the enrollment of nurses be prepared to send out to applicants. Mrs. Draper made a motion to this effect, seconded by Mrs. Tice, and it was carried.

Mrs. Tice asked if there were any objections to a state and local committee acting as one, and was assured not, there being an example in that of the District of Columbia.

The chairman suggested that a circular letter be prepared to send out to superintendents of schools for nurses with the form for the training-school credentials. It was moved by Mrs. Draper, seconded by Miss Boardman, that such a letter be written by the chairman and secretary of this committee. This motion was carried.

Mrs. Tice mentioned that the application of Miss Persons, the president of the Illinois State Committee and a valuable member, had been refused because she had had but one year of training in an excellent school giving no longer course at that time. She had had, however, post-graduate work in the Presbyterian Hospital and in social service work. It was moved by Miss Boardman, seconded by Mrs. Draper, that an exception be made in this instance, but that all future similar applications be referred to the committee. Unanimously adopted.

A letter from Miss Wald to Mr. Schiff was then read by the chairman. Miss Wald set forth the needs of the rural communities for nursing, and wished to know if the Red Cross might not consider taking up such a work. While the fact was recognized by the committee that effort should be made to keep up the interest of enrolled nurses, it was thought that preparation for war and emergency work in the form of lectures from army officers, if possible, and later, perhaps, the formation of home nursing classes was preferable to any other nursing work by the Red Cross at present.

Mrs. Draper strongly urged that the Red Cross direct its attention for some time to come to the subject of thorough organization. Mrs. Tice, after further discussion, finally moved that a committee including Mrs. Draper, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn, and Miss Maxwell be appointed to

confer with Miss Wald. This was seconded by General Torney and carried.

Mrs. Draper then offered the following resolution: It is the belief of this committee that for the present it should confine itself to the organization of state and local committees, to the enrollment of nurses, and to the military instruction of such enrolled nurses. The resolution was seconded by Mrs. Tice and carried.

Major Lynch, with the chairman and secretary of this committee, was then requested to arrange for this instruction during the coming year. General Torney thought that near the cities, especially, lectures might be secured.

Mrs. Draper offered the following resolution: That institutional members should understand that when nurses are required in emergency, Red Cross nurses should be selected.

Mrs. Draper then brought up the question of assistance to the chairman of the Red Cross Nursing Service. The small office of the superintendent of the Army Nurse Corps is wholly inadequate, and she is no longer able to do the constantly increasing work of this committee unaided. Major Lynch moved that the Red Cross be asked to appropriate a sum not exceeding \$1200 annually for salary of a clerk and room rent. Mrs. Tice seconded this motion and it was carried.

Concerning the construction of local committees, on page 10 in the rules, the committee amended the paragraph that the membership might not be obligatory, but that local Red Cross chapters may be represented.

Major Lynch moved that stationery and postage be allowed the local committees by the central body, when requested.

Upon motion, the meeting adjourned.

G. M. NEVINS,
Secretary.

THE RED CROSS CHRISTMAS SEAL AS A FACTOR IN CO-ORDINATING SOCIAL AGENCIES *

By ANNIE LAWS
Secretary, Cincinnati Chapter

"FRIENDSHIP, and not competition, the business of life" was the title of an address delivered in Cincinnati a short while ago by Dr. Washington Gladden of Columbus. The following quotation from

* Read at the sixth annual meeting of the American Red Cross, Washington, D.C., December 6, 1910.

the address seems to fit in with the spirit of the subject which the secretary of the Cincinnati chapter of the Red Cross was requested to briefly present at this annual meeting:

"Friendship and co-operation, not competition, are the realities of human nature. The business of life should be the promotion of friendship. The normal industry is the organization of good will, the perfect government is the co-operation of all for the common good."

Perhaps no other organization in the world carries with it the possibility of so fully exemplifying this statement as the Red Cross, with its national centres in every country of the world, its systematized arrangements for organized and voluntary relief work in time of war, for national and international relief in time of peace, its opportunities for mitigating sufferings caused by fire, floods, famine, disease, and disaster of all kinds, and its ability to co-ordinate agencies of all sorts in preventive measures tending to minimize in great degree the possibility of the occurrence of great calamities, of whatsoever nature they may be.

It is, perhaps, fortunate that differentiation of interest produces many different working groups of able people; each one of which, however, is apt to magnify the importance of its own line of effort, occasionally causing the larger view to be obscured in the concentration of attention on some detail which, important as it may be, is only a small part of the great mosaic of the whole. And yet, without that centred effort, some part of the mosaic would be left incomplete.

The great lines of differentiation into which the Red Cross work naturally falls, viz., war relief, national relief, and international relief, are capable each one of being subdivided into many minor divisions, each one of which is essential to the working out of the whole. It is perhaps a lack of an extended outlook, breadth of vision, and deep insight into all of these relationships, that causes many of the worries, annoyances, and frictions, with which often the most helpful work for humanity is beset.

In comparing the various lines of helpfulness outlined in the policy of the Red Cross, perhaps no two factors stand out more prominently, as meeting the greatest need of the greatest number, than the ones designated the "first aid" and "nursing" departments. It is said that, "The fate of a wounded man depends into whose hands he first falls," but it is also true that the fate of suffering men, women, and children depends largely upon those hands which give the intelligent, skilled, and sympathetic daily care which is so largely the means of conserving precious human life.

The great field of trained nursing, without which at the present time the home, the institution, the community, the country, the world would feel a common loss, has come into existence within a comparatively short time; and the world is still mourning the loss of the dear "Lady with a Lamp" who stands in the great history of the past as a "noble type of good heroic womanhood," of whose work it has been said, "From it has arisen a system of nursing extending all over the civilized world,"—a change which a modern sociologist calls "perhaps the best fruit the past half century has to show." Training schools for nurses have passed their pioneer stage and are recognized for their true value, and now that hospitals, institutions and private homes have, in degree at least, been furnished their quota of service, attention is being more closely directed to several aspects of the work, each one of which has an important service to humanity to perform.

First, universities and colleges are beginning to recognize the need in this department of work, as in others, of giving greater educational opportunities to the leaders in the movement, that upon a solid foundation of knowledge and principle shall be built the superstructure of practice and experience; those who are to train others must first be well trained and prepared themselves, with a solid educational foundation upon which to rest their especial branch of work.

Second, the army nurse, the visiting nurse for the poor and needy, and the social service nurse for the hospital and institution must be the most wisely selected, the best trained, and the most skilled nurses to be found, and not, as has often been the case in the past, those discarded by the skilled superintendent finding occupation under those not familiar enough with the work itself to realize the limitations and deficiencies of the one employed.

The Red Cross has now its national committee appointed by the War Relief Board, and in placing the responsibility of the selection of nurses upon well-established nursing organizations in the various states, the title "American Red Cross Nurse" will soon, as has been said, carry with it a prestige not to be lightly regarded, and by which the bearer will be eagerly sought and carefully guarded.

In most communities, organizations known as visiting nurse associations are doing for the poor and needy what the army nurse does in time of war; and inasmuch as there is no sex, creed, sect, or nationality in suffering, the visiting nurse is at the present time becoming one of the most potent factors in the general social work of a community—one who becomes a natural co-ordinating social agent. One of the problems connected with the relief work in the community of the Cincinnati Red

Cross Chapter has been the fact that the antituberculosis work for the past few years has been hampered by internal limitations and conditions, which have prevented the best work being accomplished; and while the sale of the Red Cross seal has for two years been relegated to that organization, it has been with a consciousness of its serious disabilities and limitations.

Last year, in January, a visiting nurse association was formally organized, as a result, however, of previous years of experience and preparation. The superintendents of the training schools for nurses connected with all of the leading hospitals in the city occupy places on the Board of Trustees, and the Committee on Nurses and Applications is composed entirely of superintendents of training schools. This organization supplies nurses to the sick poor without cost; teaches families to properly care for the patients, observe the laws of hygiene, and thus prevent disease; loans articles for the sick room, and responds to all emergency calls; and employs only trained nurses from the best hospitals, selecting those adapted for social service work.

Starting in January, 1910, with one trained, experienced visiting nurse as superintendent, and with no capital, it now has fifteen nurses busily at work, headquarters furnished and equipped, a number of stations with supply closets through the city, and co-operates with the Antituberculosis League, the Maternity Society, the Children's Clinic, the Ohio-Miami Clinic connected with the Municipal University, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, the United Jewish Charities, the Catholic Visitation Society, the mothers' clubs connected with the free kindergartens, and with many other organizations, both directly and indirectly. During a period of eleven months, it has cared for 1151 patients and made 11,948 visits to these patients.

When this association discovered the great need of caring for tuberculous patients amongst the poor, and of teaching these families to care intelligently for their sick and their homes, it was discovered that it was impossible to apply for help to the Antituberculosis League without withdrawing patients from the care of other than district physicians. Other limitations were also found to exist.

It seemed natural to turn to the great source of helpfulness in all matters pertaining to relief work, viz., the Red Cross, and application was made and accepted that the visiting nurse association should become the agent for the present season for the sale of the Christmas seals, pledging itself to use the net proceeds strictly for tubercular work, not limited to any one organization or class of physicians. Later the Antituberculosis League made complaint to national headquarters, and the

national Red Cross director came to investigate. He appreciated the difficulty of the situation, but left to local forces the decision of what was best to be done. Representatives of both organizations met with the Red Cross representative, and the result was an agreement whereby both organizations united in an arrangement to sell the Christmas seals.

The visiting nurse association generously offered to place the proceeds in the treasury of the league, with the understanding that all tuberculous cases needing home attention be referred to the association, no matter from what source they might be reported; and the league agreed to extend relief when needed, irrespective of the physician in charge or the organization from which the call came. Representatives from both organizations formed a Central Committee.

The question, however, as a result of the deliberations, has arisen in the minds of many as to whether the great American Red Cross, pledged to help humanity in so many directions, might not extend its fostering care, through visiting Red Cross nurses, to others needing help quite as badly as tuberculous patients, in some cases more. Also, whether the fact that the Red Cross with its insignia, being so absolutely identified at Christmas time with a more limited organization, and yet being brought so prominently forward, does not tend to confuse the minds of many people and obscure the larger significance of the Red Cross, and make it appear as an adjunct rather than as the great international and national emblem.

The Cincinnati Red Cross Chapter will follow with interest the present combination, and trusts, to paraphrase a well-known quotation, that what we *do* will thunder so loud it will drown what we *say* we are going to do; and that a concrete illustration may be offered of the Red Cross Christmas seal becoming a factor in the co-ordination of social agencies in the community.

The announcement of one of the projects undertaken to swell the sales contains the names of many people prominent in the community in all the agencies making for social betterment.

Perhaps no more fitting words could be found with which to close this report than one of the concluding sentences in the Red Cross address delivered before the National Conservation Congress:

“Above the passion of war, amidst the desolation of terrible disasters, in the dangers of the daily occupations so many of our fellowmen must undergo to earn their livelihood, does not the Red Cross conserve, protect, and extend the great bond of human brotherhood, and, touched by sorrow, make the whole world kin?” Could there be a better factor in the co-ordinating of social agencies?